



# Electronic Application SYstem

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## Why EASY?

- ➡ Users like to use **PC** to fill in Application Form
- ➡ Patent Description is prepared on **PC** (as well)
- ➡ Patent Office prefers to receive Electronic Patent Applications



# What does EASY aim to do?

- ➡ *improve* and *simplify* Application Procedure
- ➡ *offer* a Secure Procedure
- ➡ *reduce* Handling Costs
- ➡ *reduce* Publication Costs
- ➡ *provide* compatible Software to be used in EPO, USPTO and PCT submissions



# Trilateral EASY

- ➡ Agreement signed in November 1992 by EPO, USPTO and WIPO:
  - \* Development of Software for the Electronic Preparation and Filing of European, US and PCT applications.
- ➡ JPO acts as consultant (Electronic filing already implemented)



# EASY Phases

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- ➡ Phase 1: **Prototyping**
- ➡ Phase 2: **Revision and Extension**
- ➡ Phase 3: **Paperless Procedure**
- ➡ Phase 4: **On-line Filing**



# Developing EASY Prototype

- ➡ Detailed *Analysis* of Patent Application Procedure
  - ➡ Drawing up of Software *Specification*
  - ➡ Engagement of Contractor for Software *Development*
- \* (paper copy is legally binding version)



## Two Parts with different Functions:



### Software Package for *Applicants*' PC's

- \* electronic forms
- \* validation
- \* help screens
- \* attachment of specification



### Software Package for *Receiving Offices*

- \* validation
- \* allocation of filing date and application number



## Milestones:

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- ➡ June 8, 1994 *EASY 0.3i*  
*Limited release of prototype (beta-test)*
- ➡ June 27, 1994  
*First EASY application filed*
- ➡ April 1, 1995 *EASY 0.5*  
*Extension of beta-test*





## EPO-EASY 0.5 Extension of Beta Test

- ➡ 85 copies sent to potential users
- ➡ in 12 countries:
  - \* Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Great Britain
- ➡ “Introduction to EASY” Seminars



# Introduction to EASY seminars



## Purpose

- \* to increase *awareness* of EASY and
- \* to increase *number* of EASY Applications



# 155 Real Applications at EPO

\* from 20 European Clients

July - December	1994	44
January	1995	6
February	1995	10
March	1995	9
April	1995	11
May	1995	8
June	1995	18
July	1995	16
August	1995	11
September	1995	22



# Prototype Evaluation

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- ➡ Bugs in the software
- ➡ Need for virus checks
- ➡ Need for communication with user's database systems



# EASY Phases

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- ✓ **Phase 1: Prototyping**
- ☞ **Phase 2: Revision and Extension** resulting in
  - \* Implementation guide
  - \* **EPO-EASY production version**
  - \* Study of phase 3 and 4 issues
- ☞ **Phase 3: Paperless Procedure**
- ☞ **Phase 4: On-line Filing**



# EPO-EASY v. 1.0 Development

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- ➡ Targets
- ➡ Consultancy Studies
- ➡ Call for Tender
- ➡ Planning



# EASY 1.0 Targets

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- ➡ An EASY production version that
  - \* is *fast, robust* and *maintainable*
  - \* is adaptable for creating *multi-language versions*
  - \* contains a *common core* for all EASY programs
  
- ➡ An EASY output that
  - \* can easily be transferred to *internal databases*
  - \* can be used in the *publishing process*



# Consultancy Studies to

- ➡ *identify* a suitable Development Platform
- ➡ identify Modules that can be *shared* between EASY versions (“common core concept”) to reduce costs and increase compatibility
- ➡ make the User Interface more *consistent*
  - \* Notebook Approach
  - \* Validation (traffic lights/symbols)
  - \* Master/Detail Tables
- ➡ Database Performance Studies





# Call for Tender

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<i>June 1995</i>	Completion of Consultancy Studies
<i>Sept. 1995</i>	Publication of Tender Documents
<i>Nov. 1995</i>	Contract to be Awarded
<i>Apr. 1996</i>	Alpha to be Received
<i>June 1996</i>	Release of EPO-EASY Version 1.0



## Phase 2: Further planning

Nov. 95

Dec. 95

June 96

1997

Core

EPO-EASY

DE-EASY

GB-EASY

FR-EASY

ES-EASY

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## Phase 3 & 4 Issues

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- (1) Agree on Communication Model and acceptable Electronic Exchange Channels
  - (2) Target Groups
  - (3) Paperless Filing
  - (4) Security issues



# EPO-EASY Commun. Model:

Same program on both sides -  
File Transfer is sufficient



"transparent" Communication Channel



# EPO-EASY: Channel

- ➡ Freedom to choose *Exchange Channel* depending on
  - \* *Availability,*
  - \* *Cost and*
  - \* *Convenience*
- ➡ Alternatives may be
  - \* Floppy Disk,
  - \* Internet, CompuServe,
  - \* X.400,
  - \* ISDN, ....



## 3 Target Groups:

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- ➡ **Single Users:** *Saul Practise,*  
Indep. Patent Lawyer with few appl's/year
- ➡ **Networked Users:** *BW&D Associates,*  
Patent Attorneys, filing two appl's/week
- ➡ **Corporate Users:** *ABC Inc.,*  
Multinational Corporation with separate Patent  
Department, files several appl's/week



## *Saul Practise - Single User*

- ✎ enters Forms data using EASY
  - \* using his *own* EASY address book
- ✎ submits (and receives)  
via an *inexpensive* public channel:  
by modem using e.g. Internet or CompuServe



## *BW&D* - Networked Users

- ➡ *share* EASY databases with colleagues,
  - \* fees & configuration database,
  - \* address database,
  - \* application database
- ➡ work within the EASY environment
  - \* importing existing data
- ➡ submits and receives via his Mail Server,
  - \* connected to *Internet*



## *ABC Inc.* - Corporate Users

- ➡ continue to use *own* system and databases (e.g. Oracle) due to heavy investment
- ➡ copy data to EASY
  - \* by linking EASY to Oracle (easy!)
- ➡ EPO-EASY used only for
  - \* **Validation** (implicit) and
  - \* **Submission**
- ➡ transfers files using an *ISDN link*



## (3) Paperless Filing

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- ➡ Which files are submitted?
- ➡ Conditions for Paperless Filing
- ➡ Possible File Formats



# Which Files are submitted?



## **EASY Forms Data file(s)**

- \* to be incorporated into the *target database* (EPASYS at the EPO)
- \* to be used for publishing the *front page*



## **attached Description file(s)**

- \* to be used for *publishing* the description
- \* to be used as *legally valid* copy



# Condition 1 for Paperless Filing

- ➡ electronic files must be acceptable as ***Originals***, i.e. they must have
  - \* **Layout Fidelity:**  
both sender and receiver are able to print copies which are faithful in content and layout
  - \* **Security**  
(Authentication, Confidentiality, Integrity)  
which should be *at least as good* as with paper



## Condition 2 for Paperless Filing

- ➡ electronic files must be capable of replacing paper files in the publishing process
- ➡ in particular act as *fallback* for
  - \* complex drawings or
  - \* (embedded) mathematical or
  - \* (embedded) chemical formulae